

Wake NCAE

Walk-In on November 4

By now, you've probably heard about the proposed November 4 NC Teacher Walkout. It started as a social media event and, almost overnight, got attention from local and national media outlets and public school teachers alike.

The Wake NCAE Board of Directors is excited that caring and committed educators from across North Carolina are prepared to take action to protect and transform our public schools for the sake of all children. Organizers of the proposed walkout have correctly drawn attention to the damage done to our public schools during the 2013 session of the North Carolina General Assembly. When it comes to investing in our children, the Governor and General Assembly have voted to place North Carolina far below the national average.

We know that real, lasting, positive change for our public schools depends on collaboration between parents, students, community leaders, and the educators who have given their lives to making a better tomorrow for today's children. We affirm the desire, and right, of educators to use tactics like a walkout or strike, and recognize that this state's politicians are leaving us few options to improve the situation of our students, our schools, and ourselves. We believe that the immediate task, however, is organizing our buildings and communities to win the broadest support and engagement possible from educators, parents, students, and allies. The Wake NCAE Board of Directors, therefore, calls on all Wake County educators to **"walk-in" on November 4. At a time when the Governor and General Assembly are abandoning our students, we choose to stand up for our kids and the future of our communities.**

Attached to this statement you'll find a toolkit with:

- a step-by-step organizing plan to make the November 4 Walk-In a success in your community;
- an agenda for November 4;
- a petition in support of NC's public schools;
- next steps for the days and weeks after November 4.

At a time when the General Assembly has abandoned public school children, we are choosing to stand up for them. Join us in that effort. Your students will be glad you did.

November 4 Walk-In

A Step by Step Guide

- 1. Find a team.** It will help if you have a small group of people who can help you with organizing this day. Find them and encourage them to start talking it up with the staff.
- 2. Include administrators.** Get your administrators on board with the idea. Emphasize that they will benefit from a *walk-in* instead of *walk-out*.
- 3. Delegate.** Decide who is responsible for which tasks. Know who is bringing butcher paper, markers, post-its, etc. Know who is inviting folks outside the school building.
- 4. Invite.** Make a list of people your team wants to come. Include all staff members, of course, but also invite as many parents as you can. Work with the PTA to extend the invitation and have one-on-one conversations with parents you interact with.
- 5. Make it personal!** As you start to build support for this event with the staff at your school, collect personal statements about why your colleagues are choosing to walk-in. You can do this by taking pictures of staff members holding white boards or paper with statements that begin "I'm walking in because...." Post them on your school website and send to local media. If you want to share your pictures with other Wake County educators, send them to president@wakencae.org and we will post them on the Wake NCAE Facebook page.
- 6. Use your resources.** We have enclosed a form letter that can be used to invite people to the event. Use it for emails and snail mail alike. We have also included the petition to be signed and distributed at the Walk In.
- 7. Delegate. Again.** Know who is responsible for what on the day of. Who are your Greeters? Facilitators? Openers/Closers?
- 8. Prepare.** Before the day of the Walk In prepare the butcher paper with headings: What We Are Proud Of, What We Are Concerned About, and What We Want for Our Kids. Make plenty of copies of and be ready to distribute: 1) The petition 2)The "What to do Next" task lists

Dear _____,

As supporters of public education, we know that you are aware that action is needed to protect and transform our public schools for the sake of all children. Our educators realize this also.

We know that real, lasting, positive change for our public schools depends on parents, students, and community leaders. We propose that NC's public school educators and local communities create a "walk-in" day on November 4th.

We are gathering in the _____ at _____ (TIME) _____ to celebrate our public schools. We would like to invite you to be part of a discussion at _____ about how we can support our students and our schools.

At a time when the funding for NC public schools is 48th in the nation, we are asking you to join us in standing up for public education. Our students will be glad that you did.

Sincerely,

Your Name

RSVP by November 1st to **your email address**

Wake NCAE Walk-in for Public Education

Proposed Agenda:

- **Before School:**
 - Brief rally at the main entrance to begin the day with educators, parents, and students.
 - Wear Red
 - All participants enter the school together:
 - Educators to educate
 - Parents to volunteer
 - Students to learn
- **After School:**
 - a. Parents, community leaders, students, and educators meet to discuss:**
 - i. What makes us proud of our school and school system?
 - ii. What concerns do we have about our school and school system?
 - iii. What do we want our school and school system to look like?
 - b. Ask all who are present to sign the petition which is part of a statewide campaign.**
 - c. Discussion of next steps.**

November 4 Walk-In

What To Do Next

Now that you've signed the petition to stand up for our public schools and our kids, what comes next? Here are five simple things you can do to keep the movement going!

- 1. Get another 50 signatures.** Take 5 petitions and ask others if they are also willing to stand up for our children.
- 2. Wear Red for Public Ed.** Show your support by wearing red every Wednesday and encourage others to do so as well (that includes our students).
- 3. Spread the Word.** Talk to family, friends, neighbors, and just about anyone willing to listen about the wonderful things going on in our public schools.
- 4. Get Involved.** American Education Week begins on November 18. NCAE is organizing a statewide effort to connect parents, community and business leaders, and government officials to the work of our public schools. Pick a day during that week and make something big happen at your school. Use the connections you made with parents on November 4 to get elected officials, local business owners, and other community leaders to join this pro-public education movement.
- 5. Vote.** No election is too small. Your vote counts. It is your right and duty.